

With all the horrible and painful images coming our way through the news media of wars and the terrible attrition of people and infrastructure less than half a day's journey away, it is all too easy to forget that there are threats on our own doorstep. Not physical threats, but assaults nevertheless on our well-being, our sense of security and, more immediately, on our money.

At our October meeting Rhiannon Parker, Fraud Protect Officer at Gloucestershire Police, gave us details of some of the various frauds currently in circulation as well as tips and advice to recognise, challenge and prevent becoming a victim. The Police's approach to minimising and preventing fraud is to make the available 'victim 'pool' as small as possible through information: the fewer potential targets the greater the potential to reduce the financial loss overall, which runs into £billions every year in the UK alone.

She finished her presentation with a very lively question and answer session and gave us all a copy of the 'Little Book of Big Scams' (published by the Metropolitan Police) along with a contact number to report scams and a number to connect anyone who has fallen for a fraudulent attack straight through to their bank's fraud department, so that action can be taken in the shortest possible time to minimise the potential losses.

Our November meeting on 11 November will be our AGM. Nominations for members willing to serve on the committee are being sought from the group with a view to introducing new ideas and initiatives into the branch. The commitment is not huge and 'new blood' can only be to the benefit of every member of Tetbury WI. After the annual election to vote in officers for the coming year, which will be overseen by Kemble and Ewen WI as last year, we will be welcoming a speaker from the Wiltshire Scrapstore, based in Lacock.

Our Christmas dinner is in hand. Unforeseen was the difficulty in finding a venue that would accommodate potential numbers and, sadly, we have found ourselves having to limit the number who will be celebrating together in early December. Nevertheless, if previous years are anything to go by, it will be a great evening with good food, quite possibly a glass of wine and good company.

The Craft Group are in the middle of planning the stall for Tetbury's Christmas market. Our table will be offering seasonal goodies including candles, gift tags, small stocking fillers for children and a lucky dip for adults.

We have also introduced three new WhatsApp group for members: a Visits group, to provide small, informal trips out; an Opera and Ballet group, to enjoy live streaming performances locally and a group to advertise items for sale to other members.

The next coffee morning at the Snooty Fox will be on Monday 25 November at 10.30am. Tetbury WI welcomes members from the town and surrounding villages, we'd love to see you at our meetings.

Rowena Palser, Tetbury WI

www.tetbury-wi.org.uk

